

Elisha Averett was born Dec. 20, 1848, at Potawatamie County, Iowa, a son of Elisha and Sarah Jane Witt Averett, and was the oldest of their fourteen children. He had many harrowing experiences in his early youth in Southern Utah, in Indian attacks that were so frequent at that time. An Indian shot his pony with a bow and arrow, causing his gun to discharge, and he was shot in the leg. The bullet was never extracted, and every once in a while caused him pain and discomfort.

He settled with his parents in Heber City about 1864; and as a youth, he assisted his father in cutting trees and hauling logs from nearby canyons by ox team.

At the age of twenty-four, he married Annie Catherine Sedarville, a daughter of a pioneer from Gutland, Sweden. They were married in Heber City, May 11, 1872, when she was 17 years of age. He inherited his musical talent from his father and played the fife in the early day orchestra with Mr. Luke and James Shanks and others for the dances and entertainments.

He was always on the committee when the Indian War Veterans, of which he was a member, had their big celebration at Heber City and other Utah cities and towns. Being quite a politician, he always helped celebrate at election time.

He had learned the stone mason trade from his father, and there are many homes

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and buildings in Heber City and nearby communities that are still standing and are a tribute to his memory. He and his two sons, Byron and Aldin, were erecting the Heber City Post Office when he was stricken ill. He worked as long as he was able to on it and then had to leave the remainder for them to finish. Among the homes and buildings that he erected and are still standing are the Court House, Stake House, North School, the Joe Hatch, Joe R. Murdock, Ale Hatch, A. C. Hatch, the Dr. Wheritt, and his own former home and many others. He always was a firm believer in honesty above everything else. He was a good provider and with his wife raised eight of their twelve children.

They had diphtheria four different times. The last time he built a new home to move his wife and children into and burned the old one down. A son, Eddie, was left crippled at the age of 15 years from this disease. He was reliable and trustworthy in all of his dealings and was always willing to help others less fortunate. He and his wife were faithful to their community and to their church throughout their lives. At one time before they had so much sickness he raised cattle and horses as a sideline, also as a means of support.

He was a High Priest at the time of his death at Heber City, May 4, 1912.* He also helped erect the Heber City Bank, Amusement Hall, Heber City Exchange, and Heber City Mercantile.

Marie Catherine Dalstrom Sedarville was born in Gutland, Sweden, Dec. 11, 1818, a daughter of Gertrude Christen and Leris Dalstrom. She married Elisha Peter Sedarville, and they were parents of four children: Peter, Gertrude Christen, Annie Catherine, and Marie. When Peter was 12 years of age, Latter-day Saint missionaries spent some time at the Sedarville home, and she and her three daughters became converted to their religion. Her husband and son did not become interested, so she and her daughters were baptized by Mormon Elders May 11, 1863. Two years later in the early spring of 1865 they prepared to leave with other immigrants for Utah. Her daughters were 12, 9, and 7 years of age when they left from Copenhagen, Denmark. May 4, 1865, they left on the ship "B. S. Kimball," with Andrus W. Winberg as Cap-

tain. After leaving Denmark on their way to New York, typhoid fever broke out on board the ship and many grownups and children were stricken with the dread disease. Little Marie, the youngest daughter, died from this and was buried at sea. The ship arrived at New York, June 14, 1865. They left New York by ox team and reached Wyoming July 20, 1865. They left Wyoming July 31, 1865, with Minor G. Atwood as Captain of their party. This was an extremely hard part of their journey. They endured many hardships along the way and had many encounters with the Indians attacking them. Sometimes there was food and at these times it was so scarce it was rationed among the members of the party.

They arrived in Salt Lake City the latter part of October and left immediately for Heber City, with part of the original company of pioneers from Sweden and New York. They owned a little home in the north east part of Heber City and there she and her two daughters, Gertrude Christeen and Annie Catherine, spun wool, corded and wove cloth to make clothes for themselves and others. "Grandma Skog," as she was familiarly called by everyone that knew her, did all kinds of man-sized work to earn a living for herself and children. She was an honest, upright, and faithful person and was admired and respected by all who knew her. She was always strong and healthy and the harder the task she was asked to do the better she enjoyed doing it. Nothing seemed to worry her in her latter years, she was always in a hurry, visiting back and forth among her old friends. She was always faithful to her children, her friends, and her religion.

Her older daughter, Gertrude Christeen, married Homer Fraughton, and Annie Catherine married Elisha Averett. She had fourteen grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren when she died. She was 94 years of age when she died at Heber City, May 14, 1912. May she always be remembered among Heber City's first Pioneers.

*Annie Catherine Sedarville Averett was a member of the Daughters of the Pioneers in Salt Lake City when she passed away June 15, 1932.

Elisha Averett died May 4, 1912. Twelve children were born to this couple, eight lived to grow up, four died early.